

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MJWILKINSON:EM
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
H:TWESTON

-----089759 231643Z /72

P R 231605Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PGOV, US, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE

1. FOLLOWING FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION IS TEXT OF LETTER
SIGNED MAY 15 BY SPEAKER O'NEILL AND MAJORITY LEADER BYRD
AND FORWARDED MAY 17 TO SOVIET ADDRESSEES THROUGH
AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN: (BEGIN TEXT)

THE HONORABLE ALEKSEI PAVLOVICH SCHITIKOV
CHAIRMAN, THE COUNCIL OF THE UNION
THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE U.S.S.R.

THE HONORABLE VITALIY PETROVICH RUBEN
CHAIRMAN, THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONALITIES
THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE U.S.S.R.

DEAR CHAIRMEN SCHITIKOV AND RUBEN:
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ON BEHALF OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE UNITED STATES, WE WISH TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION OF THE
SUPREME SOVIET FOR A VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION BY A DELE-
GATION FROM THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

IT HAS BEEN AGREED BY THE LEADERSHIP THAT IT WOULD BE

MOST CONVENIENT FOR TWO SEPARATE DELEGATIONS TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION--A SENATE DELEGATION IN THE LATE FALL OF THIS YEAR AND ONE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SOMETIME NEXT SPRING. THIS IS NECESSITATED BY THE DIFFERING SCHEDULES OF OUR TWO PARTIAMENTARY BODIES AND OUR DESIRE TO KEEP THE DELEGATIONS SMALL ENOUGH TO FACILITATE MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS.

THE SENATE DELEGATION WOULD BE READY TO DEPART THE UNITED STATES SHORTLY AFTER THE FALL ELECTION, ON APPROXIMATELY THE 9TH OR 10TH OF NOVEMBER. THE EXACT COMPOSITION OF THE SENATE DELEGATION AND ITS SCHEDULE AND ITINERARY IN THE SOVIET UNION--AS WELL AS THE PROJECTED DATES FOR THE HOUSE VISIT IN THE SPRING--CAN BE WORKED OUT IN THE COMING MONTHS.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DELEGATION FROM THE SUPREME SOVIET EARLIER THIS YEAR STRONGLY CONCUR THAT THE TALKS WERE USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE. WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE PRESIDUIM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET WISHES TO CONTINUE ITS EXCHANGES WITH THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES AND LOOK FORWARD TO SUCCESSFUL CONGRESSIONAL VISITS TO YOUR COUNTRY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

SINCERELY,
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THOMAS P. O'NEILL ROBERT C. BYRD
SPEAKER MAJORITY LEADER
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UNITED STATES SENATE
(END TEXT)

2. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 23 may 1978
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